

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

EXCISE

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CORRECTION ISSUED:

SECRET

Control: 15053
Rec'd: May 22, 1958
5:36 a.m.

Action

NE

Info
RMR

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FROM: Jidda-CORRECTED PAGE 1

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 1139, May 21, 6 p.m. (SECTION ONE OF TWO)

SENT DEPARTMENT 1139, LONDON

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/WR

REVIEWED BY *Is Brown* DATE *3/21/83*

RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE

TS AUTH. REASON(S)

ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐

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PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

Newsom and I had 40-minute meeting with King May 20 at ARAMCO Hospital Dhahran. Also present were King's Secretary Rushdi Malhas and, for last half of meeting, Emir Saud Bin Jiluwi. King greeted Newsom warmly, asked after President's health; said he had received hospital report his own health good but that he was physically fatigued and needed rest.

Re international affairs King said he had little to add to what he had already told me in other recent meetings Riyadh;

Correction made

by RM/R

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-2- 1139, May 21, 6 p.m. (SECTION ONE OF TWO), from Jidda
in Sana after Ramaden Feast.



REF L E V A N T

LFS/3

*As received. Correction to follow.

**As received. Verification upon request.

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INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

ACTION COPY

32-36

SECRET

Action

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FROM: Jidda

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 1139, May 21, 6 p.m. (SECTION TWO OF TWO)

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5:16 a.m.

MAY 22 PM 2 11

MESSAGE CENTER

At the close of the interview King shook me warmly by the hand and bade me to convey his sincere best wishes to his great friends the President, and the Secretary.

Comment: The King did not appear to me as fatigued and distraught as ARAMCO officials had found him two days previously. He seems robust compared to his ailing brother, Prince Faisal. Obviously he is not a happy man. Early in the interview he spoke of seeing me again before my departure to the US and after meeting Tubaishi told me he would come see me that night but failed to show up. I have sent word back however that of course I will fly immediately to Dhahran or Riyadh if the King wishes to see me again. King is obviously laboring under strain caused by his anxiety over Syrian, Yemeni and Lebanese situations and the fact he has signed away some authority in consenting to the limitation on his absolute powers contained in the decree of May 14 (EMBTel 1126 of May 15).

HEATH

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Page 2 of
Encl. No.
Desp. No. 173
From AmConGen, Dhahran

H.E. Muhammad ibn Abd al-Aziz al-Dughaitir, Chief of King's Cabinet
Dr. Adib al-'Antabi, King's Physician
H.E. Jamal Bey al-Husaini
H.E. Rushdi Bey Malhas
H.E. Abd al-Mun'im 'Aqil, Deputy Director of Protocol
General Said Jandat, Commander of the Royal Guard
Lt. Col. Muhammad al-Dhib
H.R.H. Amir 'Abdallah ibn Saud
H.R.H. Mashhur ibn Saud

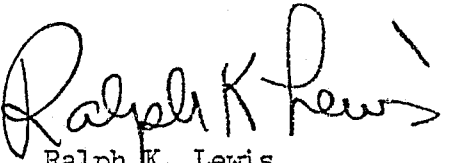
Others of the King's sons known to be in Dammam but who arrived by air are:

H.R.H. Amir Khalid ibn Saud
H.R.H. Amir Sa'd ibn Saud
H.R.H. Amir Badr ibn Saud
H.R.H. Amir Bandar ibn Saud

COMMENT: This was a most unusual rail trip for King Saud. His normal practice is to dispatch one or more vehicle trains (a line of flats with the Cadillacs aboard) a day before his departure. Twelve hours before his train leaves a "money car" moves out. This car held sacks of gold and bolts of cloth. It stopped at each siding or settlement and coins were given to the men and strips of cloth to the women. Five kilometers ahead of the King's train a pilot engine tests the road and bridges. At the end of the journey the King rewarded the train crew with gifts of money. This time there were no vehicle trains, no money car and no rewards for the Royal train crew at the end of the trip. These facts have been interpreted by SACRR as one further indication of Saudi impoverishment.

In remarking on the alleged plans of the King to visit the Dalmatian Coast an Aramco Local Government Relations official stationed in Riyadh said that the King could not possibly leave the country now. There are too many financial decrees awaiting his signature.

FOR THE CONSUL GENERAL:


Ralph K. Lewis
American Consul

Department please pass to:

Amembassy, JIDDA
AmConGen, DHAHRAN

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